



Justice & Environment
Announcement • Nov 2013

NEW PUBLICATION

'Survey Findings on Public awareness'

Major gap in knowing our environmental rights

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Background:

This survey was conducted to assess the level of awareness in Europe of the Aarhus Convention, which guarantees access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. It is a joint effort by Justice & Environment and major national environmental NGOs.

Respondents were national environmental civil society organisations in 8 countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Key findings:

- Most respondents know the Aarhus Convention
- Few respondents use it to launch judicial procedures
- Only a fraction of the general public has heard about the Aarhus Convention
- Most respondents have poor knowledge of EU environmental laws in general

Click [here](#) for the full survey

This survey sheds light on the difficult situation legal aid organisations are facing. While they struggle to protect the rights of the citizens, the latter have little knowledge about the very same rights.

J&E believes that only major public awareness-raising campaigns can help solve this situation and therefore urges the European Commission to launch such initiatives.

Enforcing rights can work only if those entitled to those rights are aware of them.



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